

January 24, 1973

SENATOR SYAS: Yes Senator Rasmussen, I think he should, really, just from, our enlightenment tell me, tell us what is going on.

SPEAKER: Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Senator Syas, the Reap Program is the Rural Environmental Assistance Program which was formerly the Soil Conservation Program which is to terrace the dams and so forth, the seeding of grass and the planting of trees. The FHA Administration makes loans to farms to purchase lands, makes, I'll say did make loans for houses in our small towns, and I think even, I think every one know that if it hadn't of been for the rural electrification administration there wouldn't be too many yard lights in rural Nebraska. I think that covers plants business Senator.

SPEAKER: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. Chairman and members of the legislature, in answer to Senator Syas also, because he did refer to some of the questions that are involved here and by way of further enlightenment and in support of Senator Rasmussen's resolution I would like to point out that the Rural Environmental Assistance Program of last year amounted to about \$5,200,000.00 of the Federal money that was expended in Nebraska for the purposes of Soil Conservation sensibly. The program has been deleted it has been deleted in it's entirety and I do not expect it to be reinstated although there have been some interest directed in that direction. I do want to call attention to the fact that at the same time that the Federal Government deleted the Rural Environmental Assistance payments from the rural people they did increase, they did increase from 50 to 75 percent the participation of the Federal Government in those programs that affect the cities. In other words, at this time the Federal Government will pay 75 percent of the cost of (inaudible), programs whereas for this year they only paid fifty percent. Now it seems a little inconsistent to me that the Federal Government who is sincerely interested in those areas which would make pollution, would increase their fifty percent or participation to the city programs and would delete entirely those payments that are made to rural areas. Therefore, and I have said this previously I intend to introduce legislation which will cause the State of Nebraska to enter into a program to participate with the farmers in that area and I intend to use those farms which the state will save by virtue of our not having to participate at a twenty five percent rate in the city Pollution Abatement Treatment Program next year. To sum it up the rural Nebraska has been penalized in this one program and penalized seriously and severely. Pollution, rural pollution is a serious problem, the sediment that we have in our rivers is one of our most serious problems. It has been called to our attention that if we are going to stop this pollution of our rivers and streams, that we are going to have to engage in additional soil conservation measures, but the entire burden now has been placed upon the farmer, so Senator Rasmussen's resolution wisely calls this to the attention of the Federal Government. In the area of the Farmers Home Administration, loans, those loans, the farms, I do not have the exact amount of money that has been curtailed, I do know that they have recommended, the Federal Government has recommended that sub-standard housing loans for rural people be eliminated, I do not know how much money is involved but I do also want to agree with Senator Carstens that perhaps, perhaps this resolution should be laid over for a period of time. I would be glad to work with Senator Rasmussen to get the exact amount of money that is involved, to get the total scope of the program and then to find out also, if other programs that affect non-rural areas are going to be eliminated also, because as Senator Warner has pointed out, the inflationary, problem is a very serious one and all of us know that continued (inaudible) of Federal money into programs of doubtful value and I want to specifically emphasize the doubtful quality, the doubtful value are a major contributing factor to inflation, so at this time I would suggest but do not offer